

REPORT NO.

TOPIC: Military Information from the Kindel Troop Training Grounds and Gotha

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EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT --- 11 May to 9 June 1952

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

7 July 1953

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REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. [] expressed the belief that, prior to 9 June 1953, the Kindel troop training grounds was more heavily occupied than in 1952. The Sphienbad made preparations to do the laundry for 32,000 troops. Additional quartering facilities and shelters for vehicles had been erected at the Kindel troop training grounds between early May and 9 June. The new constructions were, as far as observed, south of Highway No 84. Source determined a number of small cantonment buildings of a capacity of 5 to 6 men each, and long flat roofs on poles, for the sheltering of tanks. On 8 June, at least six tanks entered the installation. Watchtowers, 8 meters high, were erected in the area west of Grossenlupnitz. Motor vehicles seen on Highway No 84 between Kindel and Eisenach from 6 to 8 June []

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2. On 8 June, drill with tanks was observed in the Kindel training area. The troops came from the camp on Highway No 84 and practiced in the southern part of the area. The exercise involved 28 T-34/85 and 28 JS-3 tanks. The tanks arrived in columns of three, proceeded in wedge formation, deployed into a line and proceeded in a line turning to the right and left in angles of about 45°. In addition to the tanks involved in the practice, other tanks were in the camp. [] the armored vehicles to total about 150 to 180, and expressed the belief that about 600 trucks were in the camp.

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3. Between 2 and 4 June, motor vehicles

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were seen on the road from Eisenach to the Kindel troop training grounds.

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

SECRET

- 2 -

25X1

4. Between 4 and 7 June, motor vehicle [] seen on Highway No 84 near Eisenach, and at the Sophienbad []

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5. Between 21 and 23 May, motor vehicles seen delivering laundry at the Sophienbad []

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Additional personnel had to be employed in the laundry, as the troops delivered more washing than expected.

6. Between 11 and 29 May, no arrivals of troops were observed in the area of the Kindel training grounds. [] trucks, which carried potatoes, fuel, ration supplies and washing, were seen on the road between Eisenach and the troop training grounds:

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7. On 8 June, trucks [] occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and towing a 57-mm AT gun, left the barracks installations on Schubert Strasse, Gotha, toward the post training area. At about 10 a.m., about 100 troops wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets, armed with carbines, submachine guns and machine guns and carrying full field pack, left the installation toward the post training area. At about 11 a.m. eight tanks were seen in this area.²

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8. On 1 June, trucks [] each occupied by 10 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia, were seen en route between Gotha and Waltershausen. Subsequently, the troops engaged in a construction exercise in the terrain.

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9. Between 20 and 23 May, motor vehicles [] were seen en route to and from the barracks installation on either side of Schubert Strasse, Gotha.³

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10. On 22 May, 12 T-34 tanks were seen at driving practice in the Gospiteroda-Petriroda-Emleben area. Local residents stated that 53 T-34 tanks, which, as in 1952, had come from Naumburg, were stationed in this area.⁴

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SECRET

- 3 -

25X1

other than those mentioned above are, during this summer, permanently stationed at Kindel and that vehicles of other units of the Eighth Gds Army [redacted] were there only temporarily. Therefore, the strength figure given in paragraph 1 is overestimated by about 15,000 troops. No indications are for the arrival of additional troops. The number of tanks observed during the practice corresponds to the equipment of the 17th Gds Tank SP Regt of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div. The type of tanks [redacted] and the total number of about 170 tanks are not believed to be correct. While no motor vehicle [redacted] of the unidentified engineer battalion of the XXIX Gds Mtz Rifle Corps stationed in Dessau-Aken were observed, confirmed motor vehicle [redacted] of the 67th Engr Bn of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div have been reported. Available information from Dessau-Aken fails to indicate whether the division engineer battalions [redacted]

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2. [redacted] Comment. [redacted]

[redacted] A training unit of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div is apparently stationed in Gotha.

3. [redacted] Comment. The motor vehicles observed in the Gotha area by the two sources belong to the XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps.

4. [redacted] Comment. Compare with a report of 16 May [redacted] No tank unit is carried in Naumburg. The tanks observed may have come from the camps near Ohrdruf or from Gotha, mentioned in paragraph 7 of the present report. [redacted]

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